

Bourn (Cambridgeshire) Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at
bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 08 06

Bourn show in storm, p3

1900 07 14

Bourn mystery, p3

1900 07 19 c

Some uneasiness of mind has been caused in consequence of strange noises heard at Bourn. Here in 1753 a horrible murder was perpetrated, the perpetrator, a highwayman, was duly hanged at Caxton gibbet. A year ago some workmen averred that they distinctly heard noises resembling the rattling of sticks and some residents have become terrified. Local gossips are busy endeavouring to solve the mystery and some have been seized with the presentiment that the peculiar noises are an omen of some dreadful tragedy.

1904 05 21

Knoll Cottage, Bourn was burnt down on Saturday afternoon. The fire broke out about 3pm and although the Bourn Hall Fire Engine under the direction of Mr Weightman was quickly got to work it was not until seven o'clock that the flames were subdued and by then most of the roof had fallen in. Mr & Mrs Barker are at present in India and their pretty residence had been sub-let to Mr Farquharson who takes a great interest in poultry. The fire is supposed to have been caused by a defective lamp used for heating an incubator.

1906 11 16

Mr & Mrs Mattinson of Bourn have learned of the death of their son, Thomas in Saskatoon, Canada. He left two-and-a-half years ago and worked in a lumber camp. A big, healthy fellow, he went to a dentist and was under the influence of ethyl-chloride to permit of an operation, but the drug was too much for him and he succumbed. 06 11 16c

1906 12 21

Bourn sacrilege, p3

1907 01 17

The County Road Committee decided that roads to Meldreth and Soham railway stations carry a considerable amount of traffic. They should be accepted as main roads when brought up to a proper standard by the District Councils. But the Bourn to St Neots, Over to Willingham and Newmarket to Moulton roads only carried light traffic and should not be taken over. A bend at Kirtling is dangerous for motors but Lord North is willing to give up a strip for widening the road provided the county erect a fence. 07 01 17c

1909 08 20

The three well-known tumuli at the top of Alms Hill, Bourn, are being opened. A deep cutting has been made across the first one, but nothing of great value found. The chief discoveries include bones and teeth of domestic animals, oyster shells and bits of bronze. This may be due to it having been opened by Earl Delawan 50 years ago. It is hoped that the second tumuli will be more interesting. 09 08 20

1908 08 27

Bourn vicar's return from honeymoon – carriage pulled through street – CWN 09 08 27

1909 11 05

A school should be established at Childerley Gate in the centre of a thinly-populated district that was remote from all the surrounding villages. At present children were being conveyed to Bourn. If a school for 80 was built some children from Scotland Farm would go there, as it was nearer than Dry Drayton. But Ald Frohock maintained such a large school was not needed and it would be better to staff existing schools better. 09 11 05

1911 01 06

The tower of Bourn church is in great danger and the work of making it safe must be done at once. The vicar and churchwardens are doing their best to raise funds in the parish but feel it impossible, owing to the magnitude of the work, to raise the whole sum of £850 without help. They appeal to all who admire the ancient architecture of England to help them preserve this magnificent specimen of 13th-century work to future generations. A parish tea and social was attended with great success. After tea the floor was cleared for dancing and the proceeds were devoted to the appeal 11 01 06c

1911 07 28

Inhabitants of the beautiful village of Bourn have been turning the clock back to days before folk were choked with motor-made dust and dazzled by an air thick with flying machines. The old barn with great creaking doors and without a cobweb removed combined with the incomparable scent and music of a farmyard made a perfect setting for the performance of 'A Legend of Bourn' with scenes of 'Merrie England' when laughter and frolic went hand-in-hand 11 07 28f. Pageant of Bourn – 11 07 28l

1911 08 04

Everyone who visited the delightful 13th Century Fete at Bourn Manor or saw the unique musical play 'A Legend of Bourn' by the Vicar and Mrs Baker would like some souvenir. A series of postcards formed an admirable memento and now the News publishes the words of the songs. The first was entitled 'Sorry to give you away sir' and contains the verse 'This is the man who keeps the inn, And welcome thirsty souls within: He waters the whisky, brandy and gin.' Another gives a vision of life in 1912. 11 08 04c & d

1911 10 27

The Medical Officer reported that the wife of the landlord of the Golden Lion at Bourn had fallen ill with typhoid. He had tested the water supply and found nothing wrong with it. He was told that she had eaten some mussels and was of the opinion that this was the cause. This was no uncommon occurrence. 11 10 27 also water supply Eltisley, Croxton, Papworth area 11 10 27

1911 11 24

On Wednesday afternoon a monoplane was observed to be flying over the fields to the west of the allotments at Bourn, going in a northerly direction and apparently following the Old North Road. The airman seemed to be flying at a height of three or four hundred feet. Meanwhile work on the church tower is progressing. Outside the spire had been nearly covered in new lead sheeting and inside workmen are shoring up the tower above the great western arch. 11 11 24g

1912 03 29

Luke Hosegood is retiring from Cambridge Workhouse after 42 years, 36 as Master. During his long service he has made it a model institution as far as the limitation of the old-fashioned building will allow. He first came as school-master when 19-years old and married the schoolmistress, a girl from Bourn. When a vacancy for Master and Matron occurred in 1876 the Guardians, without advertising, selected them. Their daughter is assistant matron and their son honorary organist. Luke was awarded the 'Victoria Cross of Civil Life' for rescuing inmates from a fire in 1883. 12 03 29g

1912 07 19

A disastrous fire at Bourn destroyed three cottages opposite the school. They were of stud and plaster with thatched roofs and had an inscription reading 'E.W.M., 1751'. Schoolmaster F.C. Rowe raised the alarm. Bourn Hall fire engine, a piece of apparatus dating from 1813, was fetched and attached to a pipe in the school playground. Meanwhile willing workers removed most of the furniture which was taken to a place of greater safety. Danger was caused through the upper part of an end wall leaning outwards so men with a scaffolding pole knocked it into the burning houses. Now and then the crashes could be heard from the interior as a mass of masonry or timber fell 12 07 19c

1912 09 13

The station master at Old North Road, Bourn told the court the defendant was in the habit of sending poultry by the railway to other stations. The man had left a box containing seven fowls that the stationmaster considered too small, so he'd transferred them into a larger box. Next day the man and his wife had visited and become abusive, striking him with a stick. There was a scuffle during which his shirt was torn before defendant was put out of the office. The accused, who is very deaf, strongly denied the charges in stentorian tones and owing to his excitable temperament had to be frequently restrained by his wife. When found guilty he refused to pay the fine 12 09 13d & e

1913 01 31

Poaching at Bourn,

1913 02 14

Caxton licensing cmte object to Gamlingay Three Horse Shoes, Elsworth Three Horse Shoes & Bourn King William IV

1913 03 14

Magistrates discussed pubs at Bourn. The King William was a beerhouse and belonged to Messrs Phillips of Royston It was built of plaster and thatch with four rooms downstairs, one sub-let as a butcher's shop. The tap-room was very small. The Greyhound, a fully-licensed house opposite was a much better house while the Golden Lion had much better accommodation and stabling. The Duke of Wellington beerhouse was also better constructed. The population was 655 with 108 children on the school books. Gamlingay Three Horseshoes, Elsworth Three Horseshoes., Papworth Everard Kisby's Hut destroyed by fire

1913 11 14

Public houses compensation awards: Melbourn Tailors Arms, Over Sow & Pigs & Black Horse, Dry Drayton Five Bells, Gamlingay Three Horse Shoes, Elsworth Three Horse Shoes, Bourn King William IV, Girton White Horse, Cottenham Red Lion, Willingham Black Lion, Shakespeare Newmarket Rd

1913 11 21

Bourn Liberals meeting insurance act and housing

1914 01 09i

Church Windows,— Some old stained glass, which was taken out of the Church (at Bourn) 43 years ago at the Restoration, has been replaced in the Lancet Window on the South side of the tower. The glass is valuable and is probably between 300 and 400 years old. It has made a very pretty little window, and the work of putting it in has been extremely well done.

1914 05 08

Prolific Cow.—On June 11 1913, a heifer owned by Mr. S. J. Smith, of Ridgeley House, Bourn, presented its owner with two fine calves, which were soon disposed of at a good marketable price. On Sunday last, the same animal went one better, presenting its owner with three calves, all apparently well developed. Unfortunately for Mr. Smith, they are all dead, but the cow is doing well. Surely this must be a record for one cow to produce five calves in less than 11 months. — 1914 05 08 CIPof

1914 09 04

Recruiting Royston, Shelford, Bourn, Wicken, Soham, Gamlingay

1914 09 11

Enlistment – Lolworth, Boxworth, Over, Bourn, Linton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Swavesey, Bottisham, Longstanton, Sawston, Comberton, Waterbeach

1914 10 09

Bourn and the Cambs. Regiment.—A collection has been made among the men of Bourn for special objects connected with the Cambridgeshire Regiment. The sum of £5 2s. has been collected, and of this sum £1 goes to the special fund for providing socks and shirts for the Cambridgeshire Territorials, and £4 2s. to the fund for providing blankets and other winter comforts for Cambridgeshire troops.

1914 10 30

Belgians – Waterbeach not help, Soham arrivals, Burwell, Bourn, Cottenham, Duxford, Gamlingay, Gt Eversden, Histon, Linton, Over, Sawston, Swavesey, Chatteris, Cheveley

1914 11 13

Bourn – water, Caxton End

1915 08 06

Photos of fallen soldiers: G.D. Salmon, Wisbech; G.C. Coote, Foxton; Capt R.E. Sindall, Cambridge; A.J. Coote, Barrington; L. Tuck; L/C Ryder; B. Rolph; S. Trotman; A.D. McPherson; H.H. Bendall; E.C. Colchester, Shelford; R.N. Bendyshe, Barrington; Capt Tebbutt; Hodson; W.J. Blane; E. Freeman; B. Carter, Bourn; Dunnett; - 15 08 06a. A.E. Seagrott; E.H. Cawthrop; W.F. Taylor, Lt Shelford; W.Gee, Sawston; A. Davis, T. Kimmence; C.L. Wayman; E. Clarke, Bourn; H.C. Yorke, J.H. Caldecoat, Bourn; F.J. Gipp, Chesterton; N.W. Fielding; O.J. Goddard, Dewey; G. Pamplin, Fen Ditton; J. Wallage; Phillips; C. Richmond, Fulbourn; W.E. Jones; J.J. Mayle; L.J. Naylor; S. Phillips; R.L. Player; C. Butler – 15 08 06b

1916 93 15

Tuberculosis colony, Bourn – detailed feature – 16 03 15d,e, f

1917 09 26

Scenes at Papworth Hall and the Bourn Colony – feature and photo feature – 17 09 26a,b

1919 05 07

Death of Sir John Briscoe.—The death occurred at Bourn Hall on Thursday morning of Sir John James Briscoe, Bart, Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Cambridge. Failing health for some time past prevented Sir John from attending to his public duties but he had been able to get about until the previous Monday when he was attacked with bronchitis and had to take to his bed. Pneumonia followed and he passed away about 1.30 am. on Thursday. The late Sir John Briscoe was a native of Liverpool, where he was born on December 18, 1835, being the only surviving son of Mr. John Briscoe. He purchased the Bourn Hall estate about 40 years ago and entering into the public life of the County, was made a Justice of the Peace in 1884 and became a member of the Cambridgeshire County Council four years later, serving as an Alderman from the inception of the council until March. 1910. He was High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Hunts in 1883.

1921 07 13

Public house closures – Melbourn Oak, Shepreth Half-way House; Over Black Horse, Bourn Greyhound' Cambridge Cherry Tree in Fitzroy St; Sovereign in Gold Street; Marquis of Granby in Bridge St; - 21 07 13b

1923 05 19

An exceptionally fine old Tudor house, Bourn Hall, was offered for sale at the London Auction Mart. The bidding rose to £8,000 but at this price the property was withdrawn. Bourn Hall is a genuine old Tudor House of reasonable size, and the general preservation and condition of the structure are excellent. The house is now equipped with the convenience of electric night, central heating, main water supply etc. The property covers an area of about 22 acres

1925 02 16

The Community Council heard that village halls were of many different types. Some had been designed as assembly rooms only, as at Whittlesford; some were only suitable for social club purposes, as at Borough Green; some attempted to serve both these purposes by dividing the main space with temporary partitions, such as Bourn; others contained both an assembly hall and club room under the same roof, as at Trumpington. The provision of a village hall did not mean that the social life of the village was satisfactory.

1926 07 29

Loss of business through the reduction in agricultural wages, expenses through illness of his first wife (who had died) and the high rate of interest to moneylenders were given as causes contributing to the failure of the landlord of the Golden Lion, Bourn. It was an agricultural district and wages were small while the cost of living was as high as when the men were earning twice as much. He had an unfortunate experience of being convicted for selling alcoholic liquor to a guest during prohibited hours; the guest eventually committed suicide owing him £20

1927 01 27

Swavesey RDC have built eight houses under the assisted scheme and sites had now been selected for six houses at Swavesey and four at Conington which was plenty for that village. Over did not require any and Boxworth and Lolworth had 16 thoroughly good cottages and there was no need for fresh houses. They had the Bourn water supply put on. The cost to supply water to Hatley St George would be about £40; were they justified in laying such a large burden on a small village with only about a dozen cottages.

1930 01 05 c

Israel Custerson, a farmer of Kingston, told the court that the defendant, a caravan dweller, had said he was stuck up the road because he had no petrol and let him have a can of petrol valued at six shillings. The man said he was going to Bourn to fill up the lorry and would bring the can back. But he did not return. Police Sergeant Smith said he saw the lorry at Barrington Green, noticed the petrol can and cautioned him. Defendant said he was an iron and metal buyer, he had returned to the farm but it was getting late and his lights failed. The next day his engine went wrong and he had to do repairs. He was fined £2.

1931 06 05

Miss Borne, the greatly respected and loved Matron of 'Papworth' belongs to the rapidly decreasing band of women who, in their early youth, were convinced they had a vocation, and in spite of opposition have managed to reach their goal. In 1914 she was appointed as Cambridgeshire Tuberculosis Health Visitor and when Dr Varrier Jones began to put his theories into practice she was invited to join him. She went to Bourn as matron of the six-roomed cottage in which the great work came into being. In February 1918 the 15 patients were removed to Papworth Hall. Last week there were 338 under treatment. 31 06 05b

1931 06 26

It will be recorded in the annals of the county that in the year 1931 people who were then living at Kingston had laid themselves out to accomplish a great work of restoration of their church and carried it through to a successful conclusion. 13th-century frescoes have been restored and new clergy and choir stalls made and fixed by Benjamin Hardy of Bourn, beautiful examples of the craftsman's art in English oak. 31 06 26a

1931 10 02

Traction engine crash Bourn – photo – 31 10 02r

1931 12 04

A meeting at Bourn demanded immediate steps to repeal the Tithe. There was land that had lain dormant for years because the tithe charge was more than the rateable value. The result was that the

tithe owner got nothing, the tithe-payer got nothing, the agricultural labourer got nothing and the country got nothing from taxes. On the basis of production instead of paying 4s.6d. an acre farmers should be paying about ninepence. 31 12 04a

1932 05 26

Bourn windmill worked until about six years ago when the sails were damaged in a gale. It was bought by Mansfield Forbes using money collected at an exhibition of Epstein's 'Genesis' at 'Finella'. Now it has been repaired by Hunts of Soham and will be presented to the Cambridge Preservation Society. 32 05 26a

1932 06 16

Bourn windmill was handed over to the Cambridge Preservation Society. It was probably the oldest in the country and cannot be economically used today. However it was pretty and on that criterion alone it is worth preserving. It was quite possible it would be made into a Youth Hostel. 32 06 04
During mole draining on a Bourn farm the operator noticed the mole was pulling very hard and reduced the depth from one foot to ten inches. The land was very stiff, heavy and stony and oil consumption on his Fordson tractor was 30 gallons a day. But another contractor said such a tractor could pull a mole and drain 18 inches deep on such land and should consume only 12 gallons. The price charged was extortionate. 32 06 16a

1933 12 21

Bourn and neighbouring villages have been fortunate during the past abnormally dry summer in having a good water supply. A further stage towards making that supply safer was marked when the East Hunts Water Company opened their new reservoir. Built of reinforced concrete it is three times as large as the old tank which has been a familiar landmark on the Cambridge to St Neots Road for the last 40 years. 33 12 21

1935 05 16

Bourn author D. Mordecai attempted hoax – 35 05 16b

1935 08 20

Fire near East Hunts Waterworks Company premises Bourn – 35 08 20a

1935 08 23

Many years ago Madingley windmill was as famous a landmark as those at Bourn or Fulbourn. But in 1909 a great gale blew the mill down and the oak timbers were so badly smashed as to make restoration impossible. Now the Squire of Madingley has purchased an old post-mill at Ellington. There are four sails and the timbers are in an excellent state of preservation. Workmen are engaged in the delicate task of dismantling the mill and foundations are now being dug for it to be erected on the old site at Madingley Hill. 35 08 23

1937 02 15

Papworth Colony – old photo taken at Bourn 1916 – 37 02 15

1939 08 31

Bourn welfare centre babies – photo – 39 08 31a

1941 03 21

Mr. A. Hagger.—By the death of Mr. Arthur Hagger, which occurred on March 12. Bourn and district has lost a well-known and greatly respected resident. For over 50 years, Mr. Hagger had successfully carried on the business of a baker and corn merchant, and for over 30 years was sub-postmaster at Bourn. He served as a sidesman, at the church, and later as churchwarden. He was also a trustee of the local Court of Foresters. There was a large attendance at the funeral.

1941 11 14

33 Years' faithful service. — To show the appreciation of the managers, mistresses and scholars of the Parochial School (Bourn), a presentation to Mrs. Ingle on her retirement as school caretaker took place at a special meeting held last week. The presentation took the form of an oak clock, inscribed: "A gift to Mrs. Ingle to mark 33 years of faithful service. From managers, staff and scholars of Bourn School".

1941 12 26

Old Age Pensioners in one house. — Regarding my note (says Watchman) recently about the number of people in one house receiving the Old Age Pension — there were five whose ages totalled 370 — I have received no claim from a private house to equal it. But from the Grosvenor Nursing Home at "The Mulberries," Bourn, a correspondent writes: "I have at present in my home four Old Age Pensioners whose ages total 328. During War Weapons Week it was suggested as a good competition that people should guess the combined ages of patients and staff in the home". And my correspondent supplies a list of 15 ages which make 1,071.

1942 11 17

New YMCA hut and canteen opened at Bourn — 42 11 17

1942 11 17

Youngest Inspector.—At the age of 36 Leonard Arthur Unwin becomes the youngest inspector in the Cambridgeshire County Constabulary. The promotion took place as from the first of this month. Inspector Unwin joined the force in 1927, and was given the rank of sergeant in 1938. He has been stationed at Melbourn, Bourn, Girton and Madingley and is at present out at Newmarket. He is one of the most earnest supporters of sporting activities in the Force, and is a member of the cricket eleven. He is secretary of the recreation club.

1942 08 14

Presentation. — On Sunday afternoon the scholars and teachers of the Methodist Sunday School (at Bourn) presented the Superintendent, Miss Banks, with a pewter tray to mark her forthcoming marriage.

1943 08 14

Harvest Volunteers.—A party of harvest volunteers, organised jointly by the Cambs. War Agricultural Emergency Committee and a Cambridge political party, completed its first 14 days' work at Bourn, where 14 workers shocked 35 acres of winter oats in seven hours. This was only the first week-end campaign. One bus only is being run at present, in which there is accommodation for 30 people, so more recruits would be welcomed.

1943 09 25

RAF men injured at Bourn when large RAF Liberty Waggon thrown on its side, a taxi completely overturned — 43 09 25

1943 10 01

R.A.F. Man Injured. — As a sequel to a night accident at Bourn, in which, a large R.A.F. wagon was thrown on its side and 17 R.A.F. men returning from Cambridge injured, the driver of the R.A.F. vehicle appeared before Caxton Bench on Friday. He was summoned for driving without due care and attention and pleaded not guilty. The magistrates found the case proved and imposed a fine of £3, costs amounting to £1 12s, 6d.

1944 10 27

Golden Wedding. — A happy party of 46 relatives and friends met at Valley Farm Croydon to celebrate the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. George Papworth who were married at Bourn Church on October 21. 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Papworth resided at Bourn for a short time, then at Barkway for

over 30 years, and came to Valley Farm in July, 1939. During the day a large number of presents and messages of congratulation were received. Among the guests were the family of three sons, two daughter and 14 grandchildren. One serving in the Forces was unable to be present owing to leave restrictions. Also with the company were Mr. and Mrs. Yeomans, of North Road Farm (Mr. Yeomans being Mr. Papworth's employer). "May they have many more years of happiness" was the toast of the company.

1944 11 10

Golden wedding.—The inhabitants of the village (Bourn) extend their congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. George Mettinson, of Caxton End, who celebrated their golden wedding on October 31. They were married at Bourn church in 1894, and have always lived in the village.

1945 05 04

Business Houses Football League. — The Business Houses Football League Championship has been won on goal average by Madingley Road Sports, having secured the title from Pye Radio, who had been leading the field for so long. Both have 14 points from 10 games but the Sports have scored 48 goals against 26, compared with Pye's 41 against 24. In the match which decided the championship the sports beat their colleagues from Bourn by the odd goal of five.

1945 05 11

Stack Fires. — On Tuesday the N.F.S. were called out to deal with numerous stack fires outside Cambridge, mainly caused by VE-Day celebrations. The areas affected were Bourn, Toft, Gransden, Linton, Foxton, Wrestlingworth and Comberton. In some villages watch was kept by the N.F.S. to prevent the fires from spreading.

1946 04 22

Bourn fire, Gills Hill Farm – 46 04 22b

1947 10 23

An assurance that there would be an improvement next year in the distribution of ration books was given at a meeting of the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women's Institutes. One member said their village was one of several small ones within varying distances of Bourn and at least six sent to Bourn to collect their ration books. "Imagine what happens", she said, "when the inhabitants of all these villages advance on the centre in the two days allowed". She quoted an instance of one mother, leaving a young baby in the house, queuing from 10 o'clock till 4.30 in the afternoon and then having to travel three miles home

1948 03 02

A dispute over the possible revision of the boundary between Caldecote and Bourn was the subject of a public inquiry at Elsworth British Legion Hall. In 1946 the first parish council for Caldecote was elected and an undertaking entered into that the question of the boundary should receive attention. Caldecote village shop was, in fact, in Bourn parish, together with a number of other houses actually in Caldecote village. There was no dispute that they should be included in Caldecote who had given them telephonic and telegraphic facilities and provided educational facilities for the children. It had also included a special rule to enable the inhabitants to use Caldecote village hall. The point at issue was the inclusion of a factory occupied by Pest Control which was formerly part of the R.A.F. Station, Bourn

1948 08 25

The need for utilising Chesterton hospital for the elderly and infirm people of Cambridgeshire and of housing casuals in some other part of the county was discussed at a meeting of the Board of Governors of the United Cambridge Hospitals. Dr R. Ellis said "There is a tremendous need, with the closing of infirmaries, to know what to do with the people who were housed in such places. A great hardship is being imposed on people who are old - they are literally living in houses in some villages

in semi-starvation and dirt. There is no hope for them living in the way they are". Mr Dennard thought that as far as casuals are concerned they should get a hut at Bourn and house them there

1949 06 29

A tender of £34,887 was accepted by the County Education Committee for the erection of the first instalment of a new school at Girton. It will consist of four classrooms, staff room and dining room. At Litlington a building on the RAF site is to be adapted as a classroom and offices for 30 children. A recommendation that the former sergeants' mess at RAF station Bourn should be hired to provide additional accommodation for the Bourn parochial school was also agreed

1950 03 02

Complaints have been received by the Ministry of Health from tenants of Nissen huts on the RAF station, Bourn, saying that the hutments are unfit for occupation because of water constantly dripping from the walls owing to condensation and that furniture is being spoiled and children are ill. It is thought that this is due to the recent partitioning causing insufficient ventilation.

1950 10 30

Abington W.I. will propose at the annual council meeting that in the interest of cleaner and healthier food the Government should consider the removal of purchase tax from refrigerators. Landbeach will ask for the imposition of a 30 mph speed limit on all built-up areas, while Bourn calls on the County Council to pay more attention to the condition of subsidiary roads. Fen Drayton W.I. want all country telephone kiosks to be connected direct to the exchange and not through the local post office in their own village

1951 09 10

Valuable equipment worth £3,000 has been lost or stolen from Bourn Airfield, now derelict except for the watchman employed by the Air Ministry contractors at present working on the site, and a few homeless families squatting in disused huts. The equipment for aerodrome petrol installations was housed in two Nissen huts. But the huts had no doors on them. "We felt that with the watchman being on the site, doors were unnecessary", said the contractors. The equipment must have been removed by lorry and might have been sold for scrap.

1953 03 21

King Hussein of Jordan had a flight in a helicopter, saw the beauty of King's College Chapel and had dinner at Trinity College during a short visit to Cambridge. His first engagement was a visit to the Bourn works of Pest Control Ltd and as his car covered the last mile to the entrance it was escorted by a crop-spraying helicopter keeping pace 50 feet overhead. News that the locust threat in his own country has become very grave increased the importance of a demonstration of methods employed in the destruction of the pest

1953 08 10

The first question asked by the pilot of the Meteor aircraft which crashed near Bourn village was "Did it hit any houses? Was anyone hurt". Wing Commander Leonard Trent, V.C., had bailed out; many people saw the parachute and gave the alarm. The plane plunged into the earth in a field and buried itself; fuel escaped and set fire to the standing barley but farm workers beat it out with branches and sticks

1954 01 26

Messrs Vicom Ltd appealed for the development of Bourn aerodrome as a factory for light engineering. They were incorporated in 1951 to manufacture electronic equipment for high frequency radio for use in military aircraft. Their current contracts were for the Canadian and United States Air Forces and were of great importance. County planners say there is a danger of labour being attracted from the land in an area where it was scarce but only four of their 110 employees had ever had any connection with agriculture and a high proportion of the new employment could be female labour. The land was some of the poorest, there was a great deal of concrete on the site and it would take

three years to produce anything. Bourn was a picturesque village with building sites for 77 houses and was an ideal place for the centre of employment.

1954 03 03

By the death of Miss Kate Borne another pioneer of Papworth has passed into history. She worked with Dr Varrier-Jones when he was Tuberculosis Officer for Cambridge and when he conceived the idea of establishing a Settlement in a house in the village of Bourn she became its first Matron. When in 1918 it moved to Papworth Hall she arranged for the care of 20 patients who made the journey by horse transport. It was her suggestion that a Hospital was built for nurses who had broken down with tuberculosis in the course of their work and Borne House for nursing staff grown old in the Settlement.

1954 07 12

Highfields is a new hamlet in the valley but planners have banned all permanent developments and people living in shacks have been unable to build anything better. They wanted Highfield to be allowed to rot and all the people drift away. Now an Association has been formed to stop the breaking up of what is growing into a virile and active community and they would continue the five-year battle to build up this new village, which is the main residential area of Caldecote. The R.D.C. realise the village needed homes and it would be a simple matter to approve them; but large-scale development would be followed by serious drainage problems. The erection of council houses was very expensive and it was more economical to group together those required by two or three villages, as at Bourn.

1954 09 09

Senior school pupils from the Caldecote and Childerley Gate area who cannot now attend Cottenham School owing to overcrowding are due to start in temporary school buildings on the Bourn aerodrome site. But their parents will refuse to allow them to attend; they say there is a pig farm less than 30 yards away and when it rains the site is absolutely marshy. Derelict buildings nearby have broken windows, it is surrounded by rubble and more squalid than a bomb site. A new senior school should be erected next to the existing Childerley Gate Primary School for £5,500 if built with pre-fabricated material

1954 10 23c

A new pumping station was opened at Kingston. The first bore hole had been sunk by the old East Hunts Water Company in 1934. It was altered for R.A.F. purposes at the beginning of the last war and in 1943 the Chesterton and St Ives Joint Water Board was formed. Three years ago permission was obtained from the Ministry and the present buildings started. The original water supply came from Bourn from a station that was built in 1900 and the next erected at Longstanton in 1930. Now with the ever-increasing demand for water had come the new station.

1954 10 30 c

There has been some loss of historic buildings in Cambridgeshire, especially the medieval Beaupre Hall near Outwell. Messrs J.W. Green has uncovered the fine medieval timber frame of the Royal Oak public house at Barrington, though they took away the Jacobean bay window which had been added when the hall was divided to give an upper floor. The post mill on Madingley Hill has been taken over by David Robinson and would form a charming centre to his racing establishment. Bourn Mill has been very carefully repaired and braced by the Cambridge Preservation Society

1954 12 03 c

A Vampire jet aircraft from RAF Oakington attempting to land on a disused runway at Bourn aerodrome overshot and crashed across the main Cambridge to St Neots Road. It landed in a field and burst into flames. The pilot managed to pull himself clear of the wreckage suffering from severe burns and was given first aid by Sister Joan Webb of the Medical Research Department of Bourn Pest Control. All that was recognisable of the wreckage was the tail assembly and jet engine propulsion unit. The pavement on the other side of the road was smashed and crumpled by the impact when the plane crashed.

1955 12 01

The culvert under the footpath at Caxton End, Bourn, has collapsed and is a danger to pedestrians. But nobody can decide who is responsible for repairing it. The Parish Council cannot afford it, Chesterton Council deny its them and the County Council say it is not an awarded watercourse. Already one child has fallen in and been washed through when the floods came along and it was time somebody did something. 55 12 01a

1956 02 11

A rent collector told the court he called at one hut at Bourn aerodrome and found the meter had been broken open and some cash taken; more cash was missing from other huts but at the hut occupied by the defendant's mother, all was in order. A coalman said he climbed through the windows of empty huts and took money from the meters which he spent on chocolates and cigarettes. But Chesterton RDC should not have left the meters in disused huts unemptied. 56 02 11a

1956 05 09

King's Parade was chosen to demonstrate how an ordinary Austin saloon car fits comfortably in the cargo carrying space of the British Straddle-Carrier, a heavy transport vehicle manufactured at Bourn. Because of its peculiar shape it easily handles awkward loads, obviating the need for cranes and overhead gantries. It can be seen at the Mechanical Handling Exhibition at Earl's Court. 56 05 09a

1957 01 11

Fison-Airwork of Bourn have ordered their third Westland Whirlwind helicopter. It will join others which are on charter to the Shell-BP Petroleum Exploration Company of Nigeria. These are engaged in ferrying men and materials over the heavy jungles and swamps of the Niger delta to various drilling sites. 57 01 11a

1958 07 21

The Limes, at Bourn, was seriously damaged by fire when struck by lightning. Villagers described how a ball of white flame hit the roof between the two main chimney stacks, and then a dense billowing smoke went up. Neighbours formed a chain to clear all movable objects and firemen removed the refrigerator, cutting through the cable. Later when the village electricity supply was restored, the fuse box was still intact and some of the people on the roof received shocks. When the roof dropped in two firemen were pinned in a corner and had to be extricated through a tiny window. 58 07 21

1958 07 16

Bourn / Longstowe development appeal – 58 07 16a

1959 04 25

The Cambridgeshire Branch of the British Red Cross Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The first detachment (women) was formed in Cambridge in 1910 and followed by Bourn, Swavesey, Shelford & Willingham. The first men's detachment was formed at Melbourn in 1913. With the coming of the First World War valuable work was done at hospitals in Cintra Terrace and Wordsworth Grove which laid the foundation for their well-established reputation for invaluable service. 59 04 25c

1959 05 14

The new Bourn Parochial School was formally opened, when complete will take 200 children from Kingston, Longstowe and Caxton. The original school was a Church of England building where all the village children from the ages of five to 15 received their education. Since 1945 the numbers had risen from 70 to 170 with additional accommodation in hutments on the former aerodrome, a mile away. 59 05 14a

1959 12 30

Four cottages remaining on the demolition site at Hinton Road, Fulbourn, are to be improved to make them safe for residence. They had been condemned as unfit for human habitation in 1958 and had since been left empty. They were needed for families from the Bourn huts but the immediate urgency has now gone. There is a certain need for sub-standard property but at least the fabric must be good, councillors decided. 59 12 30a

1960 07 20

The Civic Trust was formed in 1957 and amongst its activities are volunteer work camps to improve the look of the countryside. One is being held at Bourn where members are demolishing air raid shelters and concrete bases. A derelict school has been put at their disposal for accommodation and the Civil Defence has supplied stretchers for them to sleep on. Amongst the party are several foreign students, undergraduates from various British universities and a 75-year-old retired accountant from Cheshire. Two ladies are expected; the men hope they will be able to cope with the cooking, although sledge hammers will be available for them if they wish 60 07 20

1960 11 04

Bourn Youth Centre growing rapidly (see Memories 15 Nov 2010) – 60 11 04

1960 12 30

Bourn illustrated photo feature on village life – 60 12 30 CIP

1961 03 25

The tiny Longstowe Primary School may be closed as Councillors think it is wrong to provide education from 5 to 11 years old in one class. The 18 children would be sent to a new school with modern facilities at Bourn. But parents say the school is successful and provides a centre for village life. The children are happy there and receive individual teaching. 61 03 25

1961 09 19

Thirteen people travelling on a United Counties double-decker bus had remarkable escapes when it ploughed through a ditch and crashed into a copse after being in collision with two heavy lorries at the junction of the Bourn Airfield turn on the main Cambridge-Bedford road. A large section of the off-side of the bus was pushed in and the conductor thrown to the floor and covered in a pile of seats. One of the lorries, owned by Chivers of Histon, was completely swung round and overturned in the centre of the road. 61 09 19

1961 09 22

Demolition in Ram Yard has revealed a brick inscribed '1509'. Its size indicates that it was part of a batch produced shortly after 1790 when the Government imposed a brick tax. As a result bricks suddenly became larger so fewer were needed to build a house. A firm at Bourn made outsize bricks of a four-inch depth, which can be seen all over the village. A very handsome gault brick was made by a Barnwell firm. These are still very much in demand and when properties are demolished they are salvaged for reuse. The Shire Hall was built from such old bricks which fetch £11 a thousand. 61 09 22a

1962 02 13

Foxton Hall has been added to the ever-growing list of country mansions to be used for new purposes. It has been acquired by Dr H. Hurst to study his new technology for inserting a liquid damp-proof course into buildings which are being ruined by rising damp. Initial research was carried out at the Cambridge University Department of Colloid Science and continued at the Timber-proofing Laboratories at Trumpington. It has been employed at the Leys School, Bourn Vicarage and the Royal Oak public house at Stretham. 62 02 13a

1962 12 04

The landlord of the Golden Lion public house in the quiet village of Bourn is trying to start an old-time version of the 'ten pin bowling' craze in the pub car park. Jack Allison recently found four 200-year-old skittles in the debris of an old barn. Peter Ingle, 86, remembers that over 70 years ago the game was played in an open-ended carriage shed during Bourn Feast when every farmer expected his workers to be away from the farm for 10 days. But the skittles are now riddled with woodworm and may not stand up to the wear and tear of regular use. 62 12 04

1963 05 01

Bourn is a pretty village and residents do not want it to be spoiled by the innumerable amount of new street lights that are going up. – 63 05 01a

1963 06 12

A Longstowe farmworker who has been living with his wife and four children in the village hall has been told it will be at least another month before the council can do anything. Chesterton RDC will not accept responsibility as he works in Bourn. – 63 06 12

1976 01 22

Local authority planning has failed to stop the village of Bourn being "deflowered and desecrated" Coun Peter King said. Ten years ago it was looked on as one of the most beautiful villages, since then something had happened to desecrate it. In the centre on a beautiful square of open space, 21 houses were being built. "Yet if any village people want a little development they are turned down", he said

1976 04 20

Bank holiday bargain hunters brought traffic chaos to Bourn airfield market when queues four miles long built up on the A45. Shoppers started moving in early to buy everything from double glazing to garden gnomes. By noon thousands of people crowded the market ground. Getting away from the market was no easier. By lunchtime four lanes of traffic stretched back for three-quarters of a mile, attempting to get out of a single gateway.

1976 12 15

For almost the entire 60 years the National Savings movement has been in existence, villagers at Bourn have been relying on the same family to help them save. Between them Miss Amy Clark aged 84, her sister Miss Ada Clark, aged 78, and their late father have docked up 111 years' service to the Bourn Village Savings Group. The sisters' extraordinary record has been marked by the presentation of long-service medals. The Bourn group has only five members now, including the two sisters themselves but can look back on much busier days when more than 40 people were "on the books", saving for National Savings Certificates.

1977 01 10

Bourn windmill is expected to be in working order again in the Spring following the battering it received in last winter's gales. One pair of sails were torn off in a storm, but all four are being renewed, for it was discovered that the remaining pair were in such a bad state that a thorough restoration was needed. When the Cambridge Preservation Society embarked on the restoration work it was estimated that it would cost around £4,000. But the state of the remaining sails and their replacement has now boosted the costs to more than £7,000. Bourn Mill, a post mill which dates back to the mid-17th century is reputedly the oldest surviving windmill in the country.

1977 10 31

Restoration work on the picturesque Bourn windmill was officially completed this weekend. Millwright, Mr Phil Davies, put the finishing touches to the £[POUND] 7,000 job earlier this month and it was left to his wife to unveil a commemorative plaque above the entrance to the mill, reputed to be one of the oldest in the country. Work on the mill started after two sails were torn off during the gales of January 1976. When the Cambridge Preservation Society embarked on the restoration work it was estimated it would cost about £3,000 but the state of the other sails pushed the costs up.

1978 11 08

Bourn Hall could soon be the world's first test tube baby clinic. Cambridge physiologist Dr Robert Edwards and gynaecologist Mr Patrick Steptoe, who pioneered the first test tube baby birth in Oldham, have been looked for a suitable based in the Cambridge area. Now an investment company has applied for consent to change the use of the Hall from residential into a private clinic. It has been the home for the past 20 years of Coun Peter King, a leading expert on the restoration of old buildings.

1980 07 11

Britain's first test-tube baby clinic at Bourn Hall will open its doors to patients at around £1,000 a time in the autumn. The Tudor mansion is now owned by Dr Bob Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe in partnership with a London financial expert who bought it from Associated Newspapers, owners of the 'Daily Mail'. The 50-roomed house will be the patients' living quarters and tests carried out in five luxury Portacabins. 80 07 11a

1983 10 03

Councillors are horrified at the state of Bourn Hall, the Tudor mansion which is being converted into a test-tube baby clinic. Ugly metal cowls have been placed over chimneys, an old wall has been demolished and the grounds spoiled by ugly Portakabins. But these are not permanent fixtures and will only be used until renovations can be carried out on the hall when money is available. 80 10 03a

1983 06 23

Peter King is probably best known for his 36 controversial years as a local councillor and for the sale of his home, Bourn Hall, for use as a test tube baby clinic. But his toughest fight began when it was discovered that he had cancer. 'Old King' comes from the background of generations of small, highly independent family builders in Caxton. When he told his 97-year-old aunt that he was suffering from the disease she told him "We'll you'll just have to pull yourself together". Her reaction, and the fact that he laughs whenever he retells the story, gives some idea of the spirit in which his battle against the disease has been conducted. 83 06 23 p22

1983 10 06

Bourn Methodist chapel is to close after 150 years following the loss of its only village member, Miss Ada Clarke, who was cleaner, caretaker and organist until her death aged 86. Now the congregation which has already small has since dwindled further with only two or three attending the monthly services. A final service will be held at the end of the month, after which the building will be sold. 83 10 08 p6

1985 06 14

Bourn windmill renovated – 85 06 14a

1986 05 22

A new town for up to 18,000 people may be created as a cure for Cambridge's spiralling housing needs. It would include shops, pubs, leisure facilities and 150 acres of supporting industry. Two possible sites are the A10 Waterbeach-Landbeach area and the Caxton, Bourn and Swavesey area between the A45 and A604. One solution would be if the Ministry of Defence could be persuaded to leave either Waterbeach or Oakington bases. But County planners have rejected any new settlement south of Cambridge, fearing housing would be snapped up by M11 and railway commuters 86 05 22

1986 11 26

Bourn Airfield could be developed into a town for 8,000 people. Around 3,000 houses would be constructed including low-cost rented accommodation together with a business park, shops, health facilities and a primary school. The Second World War airfield closed in 1948 and while there are few of the original buildings the runways and taxiways remain. Part of the site is occupied by Bond

Helicopters and Pre-Star, a subsidiary of Camford Engineering. This is the latest in a series of speculative proposals for a new settlement in the Cambridge area 86 11 26a

1987 04 21

A Bourn couple who have supplied fellow villages with newspapers for 25 years were honoured at a retirement presentation. Ron and Doris Jones, who delivered the papers themselves in Bourn, Caxton and Longstowe, were presented with a radio, rose bowl and tin of biscuits. Doris made friends with dogs on her round by tempting them with pocketfuls of biscuits, so villages thought it was time to turn the tables. 87 04 21

1987 04 30

Test-tube baby land is enjoying a new boom. As more desperate childless couples flock to the world-famous Bourn Hall infertility clinic so the demand for accommodation has become tremendous. More than 40 local villagers and at least 100 residents within a five-mile radius have gone into the bed-and-breakfast business. Farm buildings, outhouses and spare bedrooms are being converted into cost motel-like rooms, charging a top whack of £20 a night for a double. Many people come from abroad and stay for up to two months. 87 04 30

1987 08 29

Another developer has put in plans for a new village off the A45. Hillson and Twigden want to build 1,500 homes on 200 acres of farmland east of Highfields, near Caldecote. They say it would link up with rapidly-expanding Hardwick and provide additional schooling and shopping. It did not use top agricultural land and was close to the underused A45 dual carriageway which would be even less used when the A1/M1 link is built. There are already five other plans for a new village between Bourn and Caxton as an alternative to the preferred county council site off the A10 near Ely. 87 08 29

1987 12 31

Bourn Hall test-tube baby centre has 1,000th baby on Boxing Day – 87 12 28c; pioneers Steptoe & Edwards get CBEs, 87 12 31

1988 03 23

Mr Patrick Steptoe was part of a team led by Dr Robert Edwards at Cambridge University who in 1970 successfully removed an egg from an ovary and fertilised it in a test tube with sperm. Then in July 1978 came the birth of the first test-tube baby, Louise Brown. A year later work was under way to convert Bourn Hall into the world's first test-tube baby clinic. Now more than 1,000 children are alive thanks to his research. He was awarded a CBE and won prestigious prizes but his best memorial will be to ensure that research continues, said MP Robert Rhodes James. His funeral will take place at Bourn church. 88 03 23

1988 07 25

Bourn Hall test-tube baby clinic bought by Swiss company – 88 07 25

1989 03 03

Plans have been released for a 'showpiece' village on the site of the former wartime air base at Bourn. The proposal is for a community of 3,000 homes of which 2,400 would be built by 2001. Up to 30 per cent would be for social needs – first-time buyers, the elderly and the handicapped. There would also be a 50-acre business park, superstore and nine-hole golf course together with two schools, a swimming pool, library and a police station 89 03 03

1989 05 04

Cambridge Preservation Society has won the prestigious Europa Nostra Diploma of Merit for its restoration of Hinxton watermill and adjoining cottage. It is one of three in the village recorded in the Domesday Book though the oldest part of the present building dates from the 1600s. The project to save the mill, last used in 1955, began in 1983. Now it is in working condition and flour will be

ground for visitors. The society won the award previously for its restoration of Bourn windmill 89 05 04

1989 09 19

An investigation has been called after residents at Bourn saw drums marked with a skull and crossbones being stored in a shed near their home. The land owners confirmed that they have been storing low-level radioactive waste on the site. It was licensed by the Government and is one of 20 such premises in South Cambs. Environmental Health officers say there are a number of activities to do with university, hospital and scientific industries where such material is used. Some is put out with normal refuse and some is taken to Harwell for controlled disposal 89 09 19b

1990 03 15

A baby has been born to a surrogate mother after treatment at Bourn Hall Clinic and another is expected soon. The news coincides with B.M.A. official backing for the first time to this method of test-tube fertilisation. Bourn's medical director welcomes the ruling as it confirms what they believed, that people without wombs should be helped to give birth by a sister or close friend. He stressed they would not countenance any kind of commercialisation. 90 03 15

1990 03 29

Plans for new town at Great common Farm and Bourn airfield – 90 03 29a